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NO. 3661 P. 8

Application No. 10/820,679
Reply to Office Action of June 26, 2007

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Docket No.: 65689CPDV(43382)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for loading a plurality of liquid samples into a through-hole array, the liquid samples residing in wells of a microtiter plate characterized by a well-to-well spacing, the through-hole array characterized by a hole spacing that is an integral fraction of the well-to-well spacing of the microtiter plate, the method comprising:
 - a. positioning an array of transfer members, each transfer member disposed for drawing liquid from a distinct well of the microtiter plate;
 - b. drawing liquid samples from the wells of the microtiter plate to each of the transfer members;
 - c. registering the array of transfer members with a subset of through-holes of the through-hole array; and
 - d. dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members into through-holes of the through-hole array.
2. (Original) A method for loading a plurality of liquid samples in accordance with claim 1, further including stacking a plurality of through-hole arrays in registration such that liquid samples are deposited from each transfer member into a plurality of through-holes.
3. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members includes expelling liquid from a capillary.
4. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members includes expelling liquid from tubing of a pipette.
5. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members includes expelling liquid by means of a syringe.

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6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of drawing liquid samples from the wells of the microtiter plate includes drawing liquid into a capillary.
7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of drawing liquid samples from the wells of the microtiter plate includes drawing liquid into tubing of a pipette.
8. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of drawing liquid samples from the wells of the microtiter plate includes drawing liquid by means of a syringe.
9. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein during the step of dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members, surface tension draws fluid into the through-holes.
10. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein during the step of dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members, surface tension holds fluid in the through-holes.